

Amendment and Response under 37 C.F.R. 1.116

Applicant: Dallas G. Frederiksen

Serial No.: 09/935,806

Filed: August 23, 2001

Docket No.: 10005155-1

Title: PROCESS POWER BROKERING APPARATUS AND METHOD

BEST AVAILABLE COPY**IN THE CLAIMS**

Please amend claims 1-5, 8, 9, and 12-20 as follows:

1. (Currently Amended) A compute cycle brokering apparatus comprising:
 - a) a network;
 - b) a plurality of printing machines connected to said network wherein some printing machines are idle and some printing machines are busy; and
 - c) a process power broker connected to said network ~~for locating available process power on idle machines and directing pending jobs from busy machines to said idle machines for processing for locating available processing power on idle printing machines and directing a pending print job from a busy printing machine to an idle printing machine for processing only of the print job at the idle printing machine before printing; and~~
 - d) a job director for directing the processed print job back to the busy printing machine for printing.
2. (Currently Amended) The apparatus of Claim 1 wherein ~~the process power broker includes a job director for directing job output back to the busy machine for output the job director directs the processed print job to an available printing machine for printing if the busy printing machine is still busy.~~
3. (Currently Amended) The apparatus of Claim 1 wherein ~~the process power broker includes a job director for directing job output to the first available machine for output the job director directs the processed print job to a first available printing machine for printing if the busy printing machine is still busy.~~
4. (Currently Amended) The apparatus of Claim 1 wherein the printing machines are MFPs.

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5. (Currently Amended) The apparatus of Claim 1 wherein the printing machines are printers.
6. (Original) The apparatus of Claim 1 wherein the network comprises an intranet.
7. (Original) The apparatus of Claim 1 wherein the network comprises the Internet.
8. (Currently Amended) A network of a plurality of MFPs wherein some MFPs are busy and some MFPs are idle, the network including a compute cycle brokering apparatus comprising a process power broker that identifies idle MFPs and ~~directs pending jobs from busy MFPs to idle MFPs for processing and which further comprises a job director for directing job output back to the busy MFP for output~~ directs a pending print job from a busy MFP to an idle MFP for processing only of the print job before printing and which further comprises a job director that directs the print job back to the busy MFP for printing after the print job has been processed by the idle MFP.
9. (Currently Amended) The apparatus of Claim 8 wherein ~~the job director directs the job output to the first available idle MFP for output~~ the job director directs the print job to a first available idle MFP for printing if the busy MFP is still busy.
10. (Original) The apparatus of Claim 8 wherein the network is the Internet.
11. (Original) The apparatus of Claim 8 wherein the MFPs are printers.
12. (Currently Amended) A method for compute cycle brokering, the method comprising the steps of:
 - a) providing a network;
 - b) connecting a plurality of MFPs to said network wherein some MFPs are idle and some MFPs are busy; and
 - c) connecting a process power broker to said network ~~for locating available process power on said idle MFPs and directing pending jobs from~~

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busy MFPs to said idle MFPs for processing for locating available processing power on idle MFPs and directing a pending print job from a busy MFP to an idle MFP for processing only of the pending print job before printing; and
d) providing a job director for directing the pending print job back to the busy MFP for printing after processing by the idle MFP.

13. (Currently Amended) The method of Claim 12 further comprising the step of providing a job director for directing job output back to the busy MFP for output the job director directing the pending print job to an available MFP for printing if the busy MFP is still busy.

14. (Currently Amended) The method of Claim 12 further comprising the step of providing a job director for directing job output to the first available MFP for output the job director directing the pending print job to a first available MFP for printing if the busy MFP is still busy.

15. (Currently Amended) The method of Claim 12 wherein step b) connecting said plurality of MFPs to said network comprises the step of connecting a plurality of printers to the network.

16. (Currently Amended) The method of Claim 12, wherein step a) providing said network comprises providing an intranet network.

17. (Currently Amended) The method of Claim 12, wherein step a) providing said network comprises providing an Internet network.

18. (Currently Amended) In a network of MFPs, a computer program product for compute cycle brokering, the computer program product comprising:

a) instructions for identifying MFPs on the network that are idle and MFPs on the network that are busy; and

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- b) instructions for a process power broker for locating available process power on idle MFPs and directing pending jobs from busy MFPs to idle MFPs for processing for locating available processing power on idle MFPs and directing a pending print job from a busy MFP to an idle MFP for processing only of the pending print job before printing; and
- c) instructions for a job director for directing the pending print job back to the busy MFP for printing after processing by the idle MFP.

19. (Currently Amended) The computer program product of Claim 18 further comprising instructions for a job director for directing a job output back to the busy MFP for output instructions for the job director for directing the pending print job to an available MFP for printing if the busy MFP is still busy.

20. (Currently Amended) The computer program product of Claim 18 further comprising instructions for a job director for directing a job output to the first available MFP for output instructions for the job director for directing the pending print job to a first available MFP for printing if the busy MFP is still busy.